

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner maintains the rejections of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in Fig. 6 in view of Kowalewski (U.S. Patent No. 3,249,909). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the APA in Fig. 6 in view of Kowalewski, and further in view of newly applied Hauchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,969,845), hereinafter referred to as Hauchard.

Claims 4 and 5

The Examiner maintains the same reasons for rejecting claims 4 and 5 as set forth in the previous Office Action of January 15, 2002, and responds to Applicant's arguments submitted in the Amendment of April 15, 2002 as set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the present Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner states, in part, "Kowalewski teaches a fusiform molded portion which covers and waterproofs a terminal connecting portion to provide a smother gripping on the molded portion." In response, first, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not set forth cogent motivation for combining Kowalewski with the APA (Fig. 6), so as to produce the claimed invention or motivation for modifying the resultant structure so as to produce the claimed invention. That is, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to form the molded portion as a fusiform molded portion, to provide a smother gripping on the molded portion, as the Examiner asserts. Even if, *assuming arguendo*, Kowalewski discloses a fusiform molded portion, one would not have been motivated, based on Kowalewski, to shape the molded portion of the APA into a fusiform shape, for the purpose of improving the grip of the molded portion, as Kowalewski does not even discuss any attendant advantages of having such a fusiform shape.

Moreover, there would have been no motivation to provide a fusiform molded portion to improve gripping on the molded portion at least because one would not grip the molded plug shown in Fig. 2 of Kowalewski, at the end that tapers toward the cord, and therefore one skilled in the art, after studying Kowalewski, would not have been led to shape the molded portion into a fusiform shape for the purpose of improving the grip on the molded portion. Maybe, *assuming arguendo*, the tapered left end of the alleged molded portion of Kowalewski, as shown in Fig. 2, provides improved gripping on the molded portion, but there would have been no motivation to provide a fusiform molded portion in which both ends of the molded portion are tapered. shown
no moti-
necessary

Yet further, Applicant's particular argument, as submitted in the Amendment of April 15, 2002, was that it is improper to combine the APA with Kowalewski because the latter teaches away from combining the two references. The Examiner does not specifically address this point. Further, Applicant submits that Kowalewski is not even reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which Applicant was concerned. That is, Applicant's invention is at least directed to providing a waterproofing apparatus for a terminal connecting portion of the sheathed wire for preventing peeling by improving a shape of a molding part as the molding cavity of the die, whereas Kowalewski is directed to a different invention related to providing strain relief for cords to protect the electrical connections between the conductors in the cord and the contact members in the plug.

Also, the Examiner states that one cannot show obviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. However, Applicant was not attacking Kowalewski by stating that it is not practical for the plug receptacle of

Kowalewski to have the configuration described in Fig. 6 of the APA. Applicant submits that when Applicant argued that it would be impractical for the plug receptacle of Kowalewski to have the configuration described in Fig. 6 of the APA, Applicant only intended to provide further support as to why it is improper to combine Kowalewski with the APA. In other words, Applicant was not attacking Kowalewski alone, but was arguing that it is improper to combine Kowalewski with the APA.

For at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant submits that claims 4 and 5 are patentable over the applied references.

Claim 6

To support the rejection of claim 6, the Examiner states that the APA, as modified by Kowalewski, teaches all of the limitations of Applicant's invention, except for the claimed plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs. The Examiner, however, alleges that Hauchard makes up for the deficiencies of the APA and Kowalewski.

Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in claim 6, is patentable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 4. Hauchard does not make up the deficiencies of the APA and Kowalewski.

Further, with respect to claim 6, the Examiner states that "it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the molded portion having a plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs formed in a direction parallel to a direction that the wire, as taught by Hauchard, to save material while providing structural strength to the molded portion." *See page 3 of Office Action.* In response,

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to provide projecting fins 37, which allegedly correspond to the claimed plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs, for the purpose of saving material while providing structural strength to the

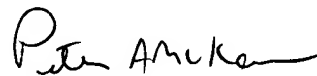
molded portion. Nowhere does Hauchard discuss any such advantages of these projecting fins 37, and, further, Hauchard does not mention any specific purpose of these projecting fins 37.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that there would have been no motivation to form a molded portion having a plurality of fins 37, for the purpose of saving material while providing structural strength.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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